



Yealm Yacht Club Plymouth Youth Sailing



Sailing Instructions

RNLI Yacht, Dayboat & Dinghy PASSAGE RACE

PLYMOUTH SOUND TO THE RIVER YEALM

Saturday 11 July 2026, start 1300 BST

HW 1528 BST 4.6m Bovisand Pier

This is an annual race in aid of the Royal National Lifeboat Institute open to large and small sailing boats. We hope to encourage friendly and safe participation by those new to racing, as well as regular competitors.

Entry fees will be regarded as donations to the RNLI and will not be refunded if the race is cancelled or if an entrant withdraws. Entrants are encouraged to join the RNLI or consider making an additional donation.

1 Rules

1.1 The race will be governed by the current Racing Rules of Sailing (RRS). Attention is drawn to Part 1, Rule 3 which states that "The responsibility for a boat's decision to participate in a race or to continue racing is hers alone."

1.2 The race is split into the following classes with these start times (handicap framework in brackets):

1300 Class 1 – Yachts & Sportsboats (YTC Handicap)

1305 Class 2 - Devon Yawls, Dayboats & Keelboats (Portsmouth Yardstick)

1310 Class 3 – Dinghies including catamarans (Portsmouth Yardstick)

Yachts should comply with World Sailing Rules:

<https://www.sailing.org/inside-world-sailing/rules-regulations/racing-rules-of-sailing>

1.3 Documentation for the race will be available on the Yealm Yacht Club (YYC) website <https://yealmyachtclub.co.uk/racing-2/rnli-passage-race/> .

Please consult the website for updates.

1.4 Please complete the online **entry forms** at <https://yealmyachtclub.co.uk/racing-2/rnli-passage-race/> , as early as you can, so that we know likely numbers.

Entries should arrive by **Wednesday 8 July 2026**. Late entries may be accepted before the start at the Race Officer's discretion.

1.5 Dinghy entries may be limited to 40 boats; in fair weather additional entries may be allowed at the discretion of the Race Officer.

1.6 Boats that do not have a sail number must display a clear unique identification mark (e.g. sail marking, additional flag/pennant) and describe it on the entry form.

1.7 Helms must be aged 14 or over on the day of the race.

2 Notices to Competitors

Notices to Competitors will be posted on the website and/or on the notice board at Yealm Yacht Club and the Mount Batten Watersports Centre.

3 Changes to Sailing Instructions

3.1 It is the responsibility of helms, parents and guardians to obtain changes and amendments. If possible, cancellations and changes to sailing instructions will be made before the day on the Yealm Yacht Club website, or by 1000 on the day of the race at Yealm Yacht Club and Mount Batten Watersports Centre (MBWSC) noticeboards. Exceptionally, last minute changes will be indicated by Code Flag L on the Committee Boat when on station.

3.2 **Under 18s:** If the forecast wind and sea state make it unsafe to race unless either the helm or crew is at least 18 years old, the race will be cancelled for younger competitors.

3.3 **Dayboats and dinghies:** If the forecast wind and sea state make it unsafe for Dayboats & Keelboats (Class 2) and Dinghies (Class 3) to race, Flag N with Pennants 2 & 3 will be flown at the YYC and The Mount Batten Centre by 0900 on the day of the Race to indicate that their race has been cancelled. This allows Class 1 to race.

3.4 **Yachts:** In the event of conditions being so extreme that all racing has to be cancelled, notices will be displayed at Yealm Steps and MBWSC and broadcast on Channel 77.

4 Signals

Signals may be made afloat at the Committee Boat, or at the YYC; for example, if the event is abandoned (Flag N & A).

5 Schedule of the Race (All Times BST)

5.1 Classes will start at 5 minute intervals as follows using numeral pennant class flags:

1300 – Class 1, pennant 1 Yachts & Sportsboats

1305 – Class 2, pennant 2 Devon Yawls, Dayboats & Keelboats

1310 – Class 3, pennant 3 Dinghies, including catamarans

6 Courses

For Yachts & Sportsboats (Class 1)

From the Start Line in Plymouth Sound

Leave the Western End of Plymouth Breakwater to Port

Leave Draystone to Port

Leave the Mewstone to Port

and thence to the Yealm Yacht Club finishing line at Mouthstone Point

For Dayboats & Keelboats (Class 2) and Dinghies (Class 3):

From the Start Line in Plymouth Sound

Leave the Western End of Plymouth Breakwater to Port

Leave the Mewstone to Port

and thence to the finish line at the YYC

Dinghies & dayboats can pass **either side** of the **red port channel markers** at the Mouth of the Yealm. It may be necessary for safety boats to direct competitors towards the Wembury (Port) bank as they pass up the Yealm, although competitors may pass the red Spit buoy on either side.

Give plenty of space to swimmers, paddleboards, kayaks and other craft. Some people do not know when they should give way. It is your duty to avoid collisions.

This is particularly important for fast dinghies.

Follow the instructions of safety boats in the channel and take early action to avoid situations that could lead to a collision near the visitors' pontoon, which lies on a bend in the river where tidal flow and winds can change.

Be safe and courteous.

7 Obstructions

Isolated rocks and hazards near the coast or headlands (especially around the Mewstone, Slimers, Prawl Point and the Breakwater) must be passed in a safe and seamanlike fashion.

8 The Start

8.1 The Start Line will be between the mast of the Committee Boat and the yellow inflatable mark in the vicinity of the old Dunstone rock buoy in Jennycliff Bay, which has been removed.

8.2 Please pass by the Committee Boat with your mainsail raised before the first preparatory signal, displaying the sail number to help the Race Committee identify starters. Please keep well clear of the starting area until your warning signal, to give the classes starting before yours room to manoeuvre.

8.3 Races will be started using RRS 26 with the warning signal made 5 minutes before the starting signal, i.e.

Warning signal:	Start minus 5 min	Class Flag broken out	1 sound
Preparatory signal:	Start minus 4 min	Flag P broken out	1 sound
	Start minus 1 min	Flag P down	1 long sound
Start:	Start Time	Class Flag down	1 sound

8.4 VHF Channel 77 may be used for race communication.

8.5 If any boats are over the line at the start, the individual recall will be signalled with the class flag remaining at the dip followed by a second short signal. The class flag will be kept at the dip until all such boats have returned to re-cross the line.

(Flag X will not be flown; this is an exception to Rule 29). Boats subject to recall should return and restart no later than 4 minutes after her starting signal. For Class 1, a broadcast message may be transmitted on VHF Ch 77 after the start indicating boats subject to recall. Failure to pay attention to a recall flag hoist or receive a VHF transmission shall not constitute grounds for redress.

9 The Finish

9.1 The finish line for **Dayboats & Keelboats (Class 2)** and **Dinghies (Class 3)** will be the Yealm Yacht Club line in Newton Ferrers opposite the Club house – a transit of a mast on top of the shower block and a mast on the edge of the quay. The main flagpole is not on the finish line.

9.2 All entrants in Classes 2 & 3, please sign off with the Race Officer at Yealm Yacht Club.

9.3 The finish line for **Yachts & Sportsboats (Class 1)** will be the YYC Mouthstone Transit (two white poles on the headland, positioned on the South side of the estuary entrance).

The Committee Boat will act as the outer distance mark if it can be anchored on station. Yachts must record their own times in BST as they pass the YYC Mouthstone Transit line. Please record the names and approximate times of boats finishing ahead and astern if possible. Finishing times should be given to the Race Officer as soon as possible after finishing by telephoning Yealm Yacht Club 01752 872232 or in person at the Club.

9.4 If the Course is shortened for Class 1, Flag S will be flown and instructions will be communicated on VHF Channel 77. The Committee Boat will take up station on a suitable mark of the shortened

course and finish the race between the Committee Boat and the mark, rounding in the direction of the original course. Please note your time in BST.

10 Retirements

Please report all retirements promptly to the Race Officer, or one of the Patrol Craft, as soon as possible, and within one hour of the expiry of the time limit, stating the boat's and helm's names to Yealm Yacht Club on 01752 872232, in person at the Club or on VHF Channel 77.

11 Time Limits

Any boat which has not finished the course by **1600 BST** will be deemed to have retired, regardless of their handicap and any adjustment to the start time, unless the Race Officer suspends this rule in the event of a long delay caused, for instance, by ship movements.

12 Equipment and Measurement Checks

The Race Committee reserves the right to inspect boats for seaworthiness at any time. This does not reduce the responsibilities of each competitor set out in this Notice of Race.

All dinghies and Keelboats must carry a tow line of adequate diameter and at least 5m in length.

13 Protests

13.1 Competitors are encouraged to behave in a manner that ensures safe and enjoyable racing and to take the appropriate penalty if they infringe the racing rules. Competitors can discuss incidents with an adviser and resolve them promptly in an informal but positive way (an Advisory Hearing).

13.2 Protest forms will be available at the YYC Clubhouse and on the RYA Website, and must be delivered to the Race Officer at Yealm Yacht Club within one hour of the last boat finishing. Please ensure that the Race Officer has acknowledged your protest; this may require a phone call to the Race Officer or the Club, if you cannot hand the form to the Race Officer. Protests will be heard as soon as possible. Protest notices will be posted no later than 30 minutes after the protest time limit to inform competitors of hearings in which they are parties or named as witnesses.

13.3 If a protest form is lodged, a boat or the race committee may request RYA arbitration. If the boats and a member of the race committee agree that arbitration is appropriate, one or more arbitrators will hear the evidence of the parties and give an opinion on whether any boat broke a rule and, if so, which and why. The arbitrator will then ask each boat that appears to have broken a rule to accept a penalty.

13.4 In the event of injury or serious damage, a full Protest Hearing will be held. Treatment of injuries will take priority. Parties involved in an incident causing damage should inform their insurance companies promptly.

14 Safety Regulations

14.1. Helms and crews in Classes 2 and 3 must wear appropriate buoyancy aids (this changes RRS 1.2 and 40). Wetsuits and drysuits are not adequate.

14.2 Patrol Craft are provided for competitors only and may not be able to assist with the salvage of boats and equipment. Craft with VHF are requested to keep a listening watch on Channel 77, and all boats will be expected to render assistance if an official rescue craft is not immediately available. Your attention is drawn to RRS Part 1, Fundamental Rule 1.1.

14.3 Boats shall comply with port regulations. Entrants are reminded that in addition to the normal regulations for avoiding collision at sea, Royal Navy ships and other large vessels, including cross channel ferries have right of way AT ALL TIMES within the limits of the Sound, extending 2 miles South of the breakwater. Boats are referred to the current Dockyard Port of Plymouth Order (see Local Notices to Mariners). A report of an alleged breach of such regulations may result in disqualification from the race in addition to any legal action taken by the Port Authorities (Dockyard Port of Plymouth Order 1998 as amended, RRS 60.2(c), RRS69.1(a)).

14.4 Entrants must maintain a lookout for divers and diving vessels (blue and white flag) and give them a wide berth. Patrol Craft will fly a red flag to alert competitors to the presence of divers; leave the patrol boat to port.

14.5 In the event of gear failure, sudden change in weather conditions or other emergency, dinghy crews should please alert the nearest patrol boat, or other nearby boats. Either end of the breakwater will usually provide access to calmer conditions within Plymouth Sound. Yachts should use emergency VHF calls as usual.

15 Prizes

Class 1: **Plymouth Sound Cup** for fastest Yacht or Sportsboat on corrected time (YTC Handicap)

Class 2: **Margaret Andrews Trophy** for fastest Dayboat or Keelboat on corrected time (Portsmouth Yardstick)

Class 3: **Holman Bowl** for fastest Dinghy on corrected time (Portsmouth Yardstick)

Classes 2 & 3: **Plymouth Sound Tankard** for fastest Dinghy or Dayboat Helm under 18 years (Portsmouth Yardstick). State your age when you enter if you wish to be considered for this trophy.

16 Disclaimer of Liability / Risk Statement

16.1 **Rule 3 of the Racing Rules of Sailing states: "The responsibility for a boat's decision to participate in a race or to continue racing is hers alone."**

16.2 By taking part in the event, each competitor agrees and acknowledges that:

- (a) They are aware of the inherent risk involved in the sport and accept responsibility for the exposure of themselves, their crew and their boat to such risk whilst taking part in the event
- (b) They are responsible for the safety of themselves, their crew, boat and other property whether afloat or ashore
- (c) They accept responsibility for any injury, damage or loss to the extent caused by their own actions or omissions

(d) They are responsible for ensuring that their boat is in good order, equipped and seaworthy so as to be able to face extremes of weather; that there is a crew sufficient in number, experience and fitness to participate and withstand such weather; and that the safety equipment is properly maintained, stowed and in date and is familiar to the crew

(e) The provision of a race management team, patrol boats and other officials and volunteers by the event organiser does not relieve them of their own responsibilities

(f) It is their responsibility to familiarise themselves with any risks drawn to their attention in any rules and information produced for the venue or event and to attend one of the safety briefings on the Wednesday evening or the day of the race

(g) Their boat is adequately insured, with cover of at least £3,000,000 against third party claims

(h) They will promptly report any injury, collision or damage caused or sustained during or after the race to the Race Officer and Yealm Harbour Master (01752 872533), and check that the message has been received.

RNLI Yacht, Dayboat & Dinghy Passage Race

GENERAL INFORMATION

Before the Race

Members of the Race Committee will be available to answer questions at pre-Race Briefings **at 2000 on Wednesday 8 July** at Yealm Yacht Club and at **1130 on Saturday 11 July** at Mount Batten Watersports Centre.

Before the race entrants may use the Mountbatten Watersports Centre where any last-minute notices will be posted. Normal landing charges may be levied. Anchoring in the Cattewater Channel is forbidden. Trip lines are advised if anchoring elsewhere.

Reception After the Race

Entrants are welcome to use the facilities of the YYC clubhouse. **Food and refreshments will be served from about 1400** onwards for competitors and those who have assisted in running the race. Preliminary results may be available at the YYC from about 1600. Trophies will be awarded at the YYC Annual Prizegiving later in the year.

Boats may anchor off the Yealm Yacht Club but please keep beyond the finishing line and beware the falling tide. There should be sufficient water for dinghies **until about 1700**. The Patrol Craft and Club Launch will endeavour to provide a launch service to and from the Clubhouse for yachts mooring in the Pool. There are also water taxis.

Overnight Mooring, Storage and Parking of Boats in Yealm River

Entrants from other clubs may wish to stay overnight in Noss Mayo or Newton Ferrers. The River Yealm has a number of moorings and pontoon spaces for visiting yachts. Space ashore or afloat may be found for dinghies and dayboats by making advance contact with the Harbour Master on 01752 872533 or office@yealmharbourauthority.co.uk.

Maison Worroll

Race Officer

passagerace@yealmyachtclub.co.uk